

## RENE BACHE'S BUDGET.

### LO, THE SNAKESKIN GOWN

#### LATEST STYLE FROM PARIS TO ACCENTUATE FEMININE CHARMS.

The Material Specially Adapted for Clinging—Prices for Big Serpents Go Soaring—The "Regal" Python, Thirty Feet Long, Furnishes Stuff for Whole Frock—Methods Adopted for Capturing Huge Pythons and Boas.

FROM Paris comes the news that the "demon" of fashion is the "robe de python"—the gown made from the skin of the serpent enorma which goes by that name.

As a clinger it is "the limit." That is one of its most important points of advantage. It touches an extreme in the revelation of the figure which has not hitherto been reached. Besides, the snakeskin is easily made by the skill of the artist dressmaker to bring out and accentuate whatever there is that is most to be admired in the shape of the wearer.

The Python Favorite  
This, be it understood, is especially practicable through arrangement of the somewhat diversified scaly pattern of the "regal" python. It is the species preferred, not only on account of the beauty of its skin, but also by reason of its huge size. When full grown, the python is 20 feet in length, with a diameter of one foot—which means that the hide affords material, in one piece, for an entire gown.

One may easily figure it out. A python of that size will furnish a skin 10 yards long and one yard broad in the widest part. It is enough for a complete costume. Special processes are employed for tanning such serpent hides in different colors—green, blue, yellow, bronze or black. They have an exquisite sheen, the bright and scaly surface being never dulled, and, while flexible and soft, the opidian fabric is extremely durable.

Skins Are Very Costly.  
Naturally, under the circumstances, the market price of the skins has run up to a very high figure. Dealers in Paris, Berlin and Vienna are sending hurry orders to their agents in Borneo, Sumatra and all over the Malay archipelago, for supplies of python skins, and native snake hunters are being called by the world, responding to the incentive of unprecedented rewards, are eagerly searching the swamps for the great serpents, whose numbers are likely to be much reduced by reason of the augmented demand for their hides.

The Malay archipelago is the native home of the "recticulated" python, as this largest of all known snakes is called by scientists. It is otherwise called the "rice snake," on account of its habit of frequenting rice fields—such moist areas, overgrown with rice, being especially suited to a reptile of its peculiar manner of life.

Snakes Live in Rice Fields.  
Certain well marked paths across the rice fields are regularly followed by the pythons, in pursuit of the small animals on which they feed, and advantage of this fact is taken by the snake hunters, who place in their way large traps fashioned somewhat after the style of an eel pot. Into the trap

goes the monstrous serpent, attracted by bait in the shape of a live rabbit or possibly a small pig, and presently he finds himself a captive.

#### How They Are Caught.

In other cases, when the python is found asleep—perhaps gorged with a hearty meal—a net of strong ropes is thrown over him. When thus captured (if to be taken alive), not less than a dozen men are required to handle him and reduce him to submission. Most of the time the python is coiled in a tangled mass, and the men are tempted thereupon to wonder whether it was not the eel that had caught the fisherman. Imagine, then, an eel 20 feet long and a foot in diameter, with the strength of a coiled rope.

#### Think of the Struggle.

Think of the struggle and writhing of it would be capable! Obviously stratagem rather than brute force is demanded in dealing with such an animal. But, once taken, the serpent is made helpless in a short time by drawing the net tighter and tighter about its coils, until at length it can be lifted into a cart, or a boat, and carried off a prisoner.

#### Danger to Hunters.

Danger? Indeed, there is a good deal of it. One may judge of this from something that happened not very long ago at the New York Zoological park, where, under the orders of superintendent William T. Hornaday, a number of employees were engaged in trying to help a large reticulated python to divest itself of its skin. Snakes, like people, it should be explained, are obliged to change their clothes occasionally. Eight men sat on various parts of the huge serpent, but by a tremendous squirm he succeeded in throwing two of them off, thus disengaging a coil, which instantly he threw around one of the poor fellows who were trying so earnestly to do him a service as volunteer valets. The man's knees were literally pinned beneath his chin, and he would doubtless have been crushed to death but for the prompt and energetic assistance of his companions.

There is a popular notion to the effect that the thing to do is to seize the end of his tail and unwind him. Naturalists, however, say that this method would not be at all likely to work, inasmuch as the tail is the most powerful part of the reptile for holding and squeezing. The only possible course of procedure in such a case, they aver, is to grasp the serpent's throat and choke him. If his breath is cut off, he is likely to lose interest in the squeezing business.

#### Other Animals Substituted.

Returning to the consideration of the new serpentine mode in feminine apparel, it is obvious that a sufficient quantity of python skins cannot be obtained to supply the dressmakers' demand. They must be supplemented

with the hides of other species, more or less nearly related—most of which presumably will come from tropical America. The python, after all, is merely a large kind of boa—the biggest by far of all the great "constricting," but nonvenomous, snakes which are inhabitants of hot latitudes all around the world.

All the giant serpents of the world are tropical animals, and, including the pythons, belong to the family of the boas. In this region, the Amazon and its tributaries, in Brazil, they are extraordinarily numerous, the largest of them being the so-called "boa constrictors" (attaining a length of 11 feet) and the anacondas. To show that South America is already to the fore as a source of snakeskins for dress purposes, it may be mentioned that a very attractive novelty for women is the "anaconda motor coat," for automobile touring. Made up in delicate shades of cream color and brown, and lined with satin to match, the material makes most attractive garments, which are especially desirable by reason of their lightness. They weigh almost nothing at all, and it is said, "never wear out." Four fair-sized skins make a coat, but there is some trouble in matching them perfectly.

#### How Boas Kill Prey.

The boas, every one of them, including the pythons and the anacondas, are constrictors—which is to say that they kill their prey by squeezing it in their coils. A fair-sized boa constrictor can easily hug a strong man to death in this way. None of these great snakes is venomous. That is to say, they have no poison glands. But they have big and sharp teeth, and can bite frightfully.

The method already described for taking pythons alive relates particularly to their capture for what may be called the zoological market—i. e., for the trade which meets the demand by circuses and zoological gardens. Most of the anacondas find their way into captivity in similar ways; and it is much the same with the boa constrictors, which are either trapped, or by ingenious aboriginal artificers, along the Brazilian rivers where, hidden in the luxuriant vegetation of the jungle, they hunt the birds and small animals which furnish their food supply.

#### Snakes Are Scavengers.

The giant snakes have their own important usefulness in the scheme of nature. They are the scavengers of swamps and morasses, where other animals of size are unable to penetrate or exist. Commonly they infest the rank undergrowth along the banks of rivers, and most of them are fond of bathing. The anaconda is semi-aquatic, spending half its time in the water; and, when in captivity, a tank has to be provided for it.

Prof. Huxley once said that the most beautiful piece of anatomy he knew, mechanically considered, was the backbone of a boa. Each two of the hundreds of vertebrae are joined together by a ball-and-socket joint, and have eight other joints in addition, admitting of every variety of curvature and the utmost pliancy of movement. Yet this really wonderful creature, so efficient in a purely physical sense—for it can outclimb the monkey and outswim the fish—is almost helpless to move on a polished surface, or to floor, because it cannot take hold of the smooth surface with the cartilaginous hooks on the ends of its ribs, by which it "walks" as with feet hidden beneath the skin.

#### Gila Monsters Used.

Many of the smaller species of snakes are made nowadays to contribute to feminine apparel; their skins affording material for belts, etc. The same may be said of various lizards including the curious Gila monster of the Arizona deserts, and, most importantly of course, the alligator, which finds its hide for making the huge hand bags now in fashion, and for other decorative feminine accoutrements.

Alligators in Florida are near to extermination—an authoritative estimate being to the effect that 2,500,000 of these valuable reptiles have been destroyed in the last 25 years. Fortunately, however, there are still unnumbered millions of them scattered over the half overgrown region of the delta of the Mississippi, where their eggs can be collected in quantities, for a suitable inducement per 100, by the professional hunter. They now supply the market with their alligator, from babies up to 12 footers, in response to an always active demand.

#### Alligators Lay Many Eggs.

The female alligator usually lays about 200 eggs on a sand bank or mud bank, just out of water. They resemble goose eggs in size and shape, with hard glossy shells. It is an easy matter to gather them, and to hatch them artificially in boxes of moist sand, at a temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The United States Fisheries bureau deems it entirely practicable to bring unlimited millions of alligators into the world by this means, and to restock with them the depleted waters of Florida, which up to the present time have been the principal source of supply to alligators and alligator products.

#### Autumn's Menace.

By William Sharp.  
Autumn and yellow and russet, gold and red.

AMBER and yellow and russet, gold and red. The autumnal leaves dream they are summer flowers; Day after day the windless sunny hours With feet of flame pass softly overhead.

Day after day over each perishing leaf The windless hours pass with slow fading flame; No song is heard where floods of music came; Long garnered on the fields the final sheaf.

One day a wild and ravishing wind will rise, One day a paralyzing frost will come, And all the glory be taken unaware. Dark branches then will lean against the skies, Sear leaves will drift the forest pathways down, And wood and woodland lie austere and bare.

The Answer.  
What is so rare As a day in June? Boarding house fare Minus the prune.

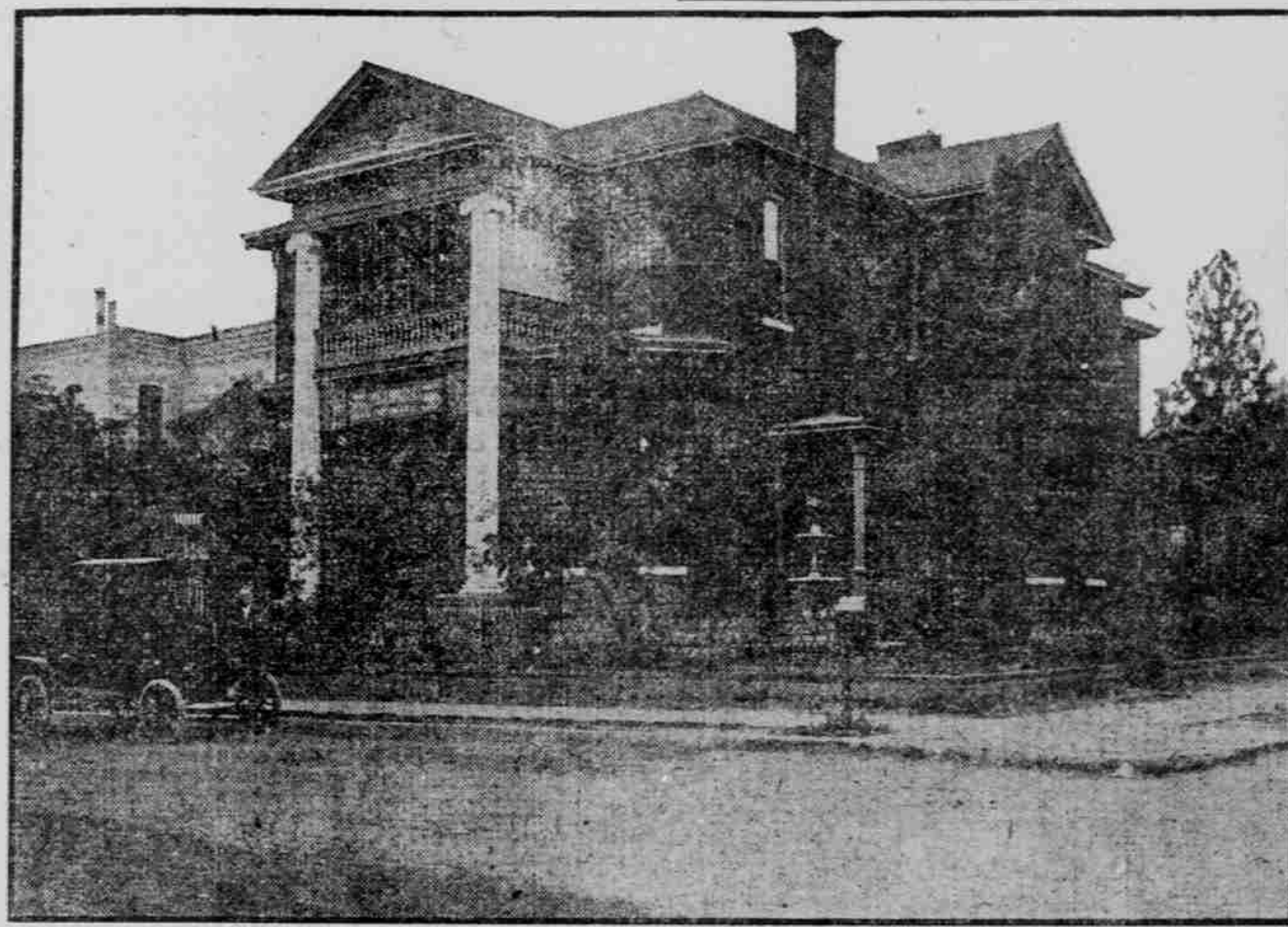
Rural Gossip.  
"Our congressman says he doesn't see as it is such a great feat to take a battleship around the world." "I suppose he could frank one around."

Let us suggest a dainty frozen desert, Phone the Elite any time.

## Why Did We Medical Doctors, After Years of Practice, Take Up the Study of Osteopathy, Which Is Now Recognized by the Legislative Bodies of Forty States and Signed by Forty Governors, With Its Seven Thousand Doctors and Forty Millions of Followers?

What Is Being Done at the Dr. A. T. Still Osteopathic Infirmary Under Dr. Ira W. Collins, Physician in Chief, Where Six Thousand Patients Have Been Helped or Cured and Only Lost Six Patients. Every Kind of Disease.

They Can Cure You if You Will Lay Aside Your Prejudice and Just Try It



DR. A. T. STILL OSTEOPATHIC INFIRMARY. DR. IRA W. COLLINS, PHYSICIAN IN CHIEF, EL PASO, TEXAS. CORNER MISSOURI AND EL PASO STS., where six thousand cases of every kind of disease has been cured or benefited with a loss of only six patients. They can cure you also, if you lay aside your prejudice and try it, and pay no attention to what medical doctors say—as it is taking all their patients. Remember, no doctor has ever cured any disease. It is the circulating blood that must do that. In the Blood is the Life of all Flesh. Osteopathy is the only way to restore perfect circulation of the blood, and perfect health is always the result.

### Why Doctor D. C. Williams, Chicago Eminent Medical Doctor, Took up the Study of Osteopathy.

Before I studied medicine I was reporter for the Chicago Times-Herald.

After I had practiced medicine for several years we began to hear of the wonderful cures that Dr. A. T. Still was making out at Kirksville, Mo. We believed it was some kind of hypnotism or faith cures.

As I had been one of their reporters, I was asked to go over to Kirksville and show up what a fraud this Dr. Still was. I was as honest in it as I ever was in any undertaking of my life. I believed him to be one of the slickest of frauds. But I received my first ray the morning I arrived.

I was going over to the infirmary and who should I meet but an old patient of mine, a manufacturer of Chicago, who for two years had been an invalid with rheumatism. His limbs all drawn up to his body, and he suffered intense pain most of the time. He could not rest in a bed but slept with his knees on a pillow and body leaning against a chair. As he walked up to me that morning, looking robust and walking without even a limp, my enthusiasm over the thought that I would annihilate this Osteopathy began to wilt and wobble at the knees.

I knew he was a hard-headed business man and that no one could work on his credulity. He said he had been there for six months, and after he had been there for a month he felt so sore and weak that he was utterly discouraged, but others who had been there longer told him it was the same with them after they had taken for a short time they felt worse, but it was only nature renewing his system and that he had found this to be true and that a great many failed to take long enough. But he was now entirely cured and was intending to go home soon. He cited me to so many other patients who were suffering with rheumatism, until I began to think it was for rheumatism only. For it surely is a success in that line for I must have met a hundred cases and it was the same story from them all.

When I visited the infirmary I met an old friend of mine, Mrs. Foraker, wife of Gov. Foraker of Ohio. She had been there for some time with her son, who suffered with heart trouble. She said he had almost entirely recovered.

But what interested me most in Osteopathy was its efficacy in curing all kinds of female troubles. She said that as she was a friend of Dr. Alice Patterson, the lady physician there at the time, she had watched several hundred cases and their ability to relieve and cure all manner of female diseases was to her the most astonishing and gratifying of any experience of her life. She pointed out to me among the great stream that is constantly going and coming there any number of ladies, and told me of some of them that were brought on stretchers and now were the picture of health. She also pointed out many who had suffered from appendicitis, and that in every instance they had been cured and that there had never been a surgical operation for any female troubles.

nor for appendicitis since she had been there; but that all these various sufferings had been cured by getting the blood to circulate in the different parts by freeing the nerves at the spine so it would hold up the different organs so they could drain themselves and be supplied with plenty of circulating blood.

I felt my prejudices begin to ebb and flow. I next met some asthmatic patients. Now if there is any people on earth that make a medical practitioner feel utterly helpless it is for an asthmatic to call on him for help.

Those who had been cured by Osteopathy, and there were scores of them, claimed their ribs had been held in mal positions because of the rheumatic conditions of their spines and it did not allow their ribs to rise and fall in respiration. This seemed reasonable; at least they were cured and that was more than we could do.

There was all kinds and stages of kidney troubles, ranging from Bright's disease down to lumbargia. They simply freed the nerves to the kidneys and any organ generating stagnant blood and forced it out of the system, and their recovery was a foregone conclusion.

In all kinds of indigestion, liver, stomach and intestinal troubles it was the same way. And as I looked at that setting mass of humanity that was pouring in there from all parts of the earth and getting relief from their various troubles—for even the blind and lame and halt were there—and realized that the principles of the whole system were founded on their thorough and scientific knowledge of anatomy and physiology, I simply capitulated. For I had no heart to attack a great blessing to humanity like that, and even if I had I realized I would be a mere pigmy attempting to change the great sweeping ocean tide in its onward march to its final destiny.

I wrote my experience for my paper, went home and fixed up my business and took a course in Osteopathy, which was the best decision of my life, for it has enabled me to be of more service to humanity in each year than I could have been in a lifetime.

D. C. WILLIAMS, M. D., PH. D. D. O. Ex-Chair of Anatomy, Chicago University.

THIS IS WHERE WE SET THE VERTEBRA AND CURED LITTLE BLIND JOE KELLEY. READ WHAT HIS PARENTS SAY ABOUT IT. PRO- NOUNCED HOPE- LESS BY ENTIRE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WHEN THEY MET IN EL PASO.

"We are the parents of little Joseph Kelley, the blind boy that Dr. Collins cured by Osteopathy, who is in the picture with several other blind people who have been restored to sight."

"Joseph had been to sixteen specialists here and in California, and they had left him for five years with his little eyes all ulcered and blind and suffering all the time."

"Until Dr. Ira W. Collins cured him and now he goes to school and reads as well

as any child, and does not even use glasses."

Mrs. and Mr. J. Kelley.  
"We live at 4305 Wyoming street."

THIS IS WHERE WE LOOSE- NED THE NERVE IN OVARIAN AB- SCESS AND CURED BAD CASE OF BLOOD POISON- ING. READ WHAT MR. AND MRS. MONTGOMERY SAY ABOUT IT:

"Yes, I brought my wife to El Paso, and placed her under Dr. Ira W. Collins at the Still Osteopathic Infirmary."

When the other doctors had given her up to die with a large ovarian abscess, which they said would kill her with blood poisoning.

The abscess left a cavity as large as your double fist. The worst they said they had ever seen. Dr. Collins freed the nerves to the kidney and the temperature went right down. Then he freed the nerves to the ovaries so they could drain themselves and get blood around them and it has healed up that great abscess until my wife says she wishes every woman could know what Osteopathy can do for them when suffering with various female troubles.

It has saved my life and I think it is the greatest blessing ever discovered. There are 27 others with female troubles taking now out of 112 patients and they are all doing well.

There is every kind of trouble you can think of being treated here, blood poisoning, liver troubles, appendicitis, fits, eye troubles of every kind, lung troubles, throat troubles, rheumatism, and all kinds of asthma, paralysis of every kind, all kinds of diseases of little babies, spasms and indigestion.

The people they have cured are all over town and they say they only lose one patient out of a thousand, while the other doctors lose about two hundred patients out of a thousand.

Everybody who takes of them seems smiling and happy and getting better, and speak a good word for them.

They have been here seven years and they have surely done good work.

Just think of the blind people they have cured that nobody else could, and it shows that they can cure anything else by getting the blood to circulate."

Mr. Elmer Montgomery.

Mrs. Sarah Montgomery.

We are now on Upson avenue, but our home is in Clifton, Arizona. There are many people taking treatment from Arizona, also New Mexico, Old Mexico and Southern Texas.

THIS IS WHERE WE FREED THE NERVE AND CURED THE HOPE- LESS BLIND LADY MRS. SMILEY.

"I am the lady in the picture whose

## DR. A. T. STILL OSTEOPAT

DR. IRA W. COLLINS, Physician in Chief.

Cor. Missouri